

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A natural rubber which is obtained by a deproteinizing treatment of a natural rubber latex and has a total nitrogen content adjusted in a range of 0.12 to 0.30% by weight.
2. (original): A natural rubber according to Claim 1, which is obtained by coagulating the natural rubber latex obtained after the deproteinizing treatment without separation of non-rubber components by centrifugation and drying a product of the coagulation.
3. (original): A natural rubber according to any one of Claims 1 and 2, which has a Mooney viscosity (ML_{1+4}) and a stress relaxation time (T_{80}) satisfying following equations I and II:

$$40 \leq ML_{1+4} \leq 100 \quad \dots \text{I}$$

$$T_{80} < 0.0035 \exp(ML_{1+4}/8.2) + 20 \quad \dots \text{II}$$

wherein ML_{1+4} is a Mooney viscosity measured at 100°C and T_{80} is a period of time (second) from a time immediately after the measurement of ML_{1+4} when rotation of a rotor is stopped to a time when ML_{1+4} has decreased by 80%.

4. (currently amended): A rubber composition which comprises a natural rubber described in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~Claim 1 and a filler.

5. (original): A rubber composition according to Claim 4, which comprises as the filler 20 to 100 parts by weight of carbon black having a specific surface area by nitrogen adsorption of $80 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ or greater or a DBP absorption of 110 ml/100 g or smaller per 100 parts by weight of a rubber component comprising the natural rubber.

6. (original): A rubber composition according to Claim 4, which comprises as the filler 20 to 80 parts by weight of silica per 100 parts by weight of a rubber component comprising the natural rubber.

7. (original): A rubber composition according to any one of Claims 4 to 6, which comprises 5% by weight or more of the natural rubber based on an entire amount of a rubber component.

8. (original): A process for producing a natural rubber which comprises partially deproteinizing a natural rubber latex in a step of deproteinizing the natural rubber latex so that a total nitrogen content in a solid component is adjusted in a range of 0.12 to 0.30, coagulating an obtained natural rubber latex without separation of non-rubber components and drying a product of the coagulation.

9. (currently amended): A rubber composition for tire case members which comprises a natural rubber described in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~Claim 1.

10. (original): A rubber composition for tire case members according to Claim 9, wherein the tire case member is an inner member of a tire.

11. (original): A tire case member which is obtained by using a rubber composition described in any one of Claims 9 and 10.

12. (original): A tire case member according to Claim 11, wherein the rubber composition is used as a skim stock for a belt or a carcass.

13. (currently amended): A rubber composition for tire treads which comprises a rubber component comprising a natural rubber described in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~Claim 1 and a filler.

14. (original): A rubber composition for tire treads according to Claim 13, wherein the filler is at least one filler selected from carbon black and silica.

15. (currently amended): A tire tread which uses a rubber composition described in ~~any one of Claims 7, 13 and 14~~Claim 7.

16. (original): A pneumatic tire which uses a rubber composition described in Claim 5 for a constituting member of the tire.

17. (original): A pneumatic tire which uses a rubber composition described in Claim 6 for a constituting member of the tire.

18. (currently amended): A pneumatic tire which comprises a tire case member described in ~~any one of Claims 11 and 12~~Claim 11.

19. (original): A pneumatic tire which comprises a tire tread described in Claim 15.